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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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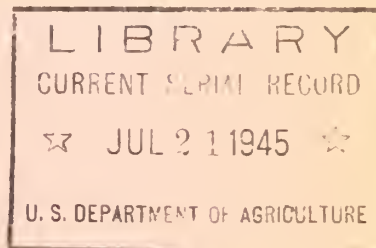
SUBJECT: "Repatee - by an Egg"--Information from the Office of Supply, Commodity Credit Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture.

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Until recently the American public took eggs for granted. We always had plenty...and we used them profusely in angel food cakes...for breakfast...and for midnight snacks.

They were so common, in fact, that we didn't take them too seriously. Roy Bishop even wrote a verse called...of all things..."The Inefficacious Egg":

The egg is smooth and very pale;
It has no nose, it has no tail;
It has no ears that one can see;
It has no wit, no repatee."



Well...maybe he's right. The egg still has no audible repatee...but it's getting back at us anyhow...by being elusive. Very provoking it is too...just when we were beginning to depend on an egg dish...if there was no meat to be had.

That's one reason why eggs are not so easy to find. There's a much larger civilian demand for them...because of shortages of other foods. More people want them...and more people buy them when they can.

Civilian egg consumption during the first quarter of 1945 reached a record proportion...about 100 eggs per capita...and there is no decrease in demand.

Then there's the Army demand, too...the requirements for the Armed Forces are moderately above last year...and thus far their supply program has not been completely fulfilled.

(more)

The demands from both civilians and the Armed Forces are high...and production is low. About this time every year...the hens decide that it's too hot to lay eggs. Production begins falling off in June...hits a low ebb in the summer...and gradually gets better in the fall. By October production is usually good.

Another good reason for fewer eggs...is that there are fewer chickens. Many chickens have been sent to the market for meat.

The picture from now until some time around the first of next year...looks a little bleak...but per capita consumption for civilians...for the entire year...will probably average an egg a day. Remember...the American public ate many eggs during the first quarter of this year.

Per capita consumption for the year...will be a little higher than the 351 eggs per capita in 1944...and the 298 average for the years 1935-39.

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6/26/45

